REMARKS

Applicant respectfully requests that the application be reconsidered in view of the above amendments and the following remarks. In the Office Action, dated February 13, 2004, the Examiner rejected claims 1, 2, 4, 5, 7, 8, 10, 11, 13, 15, 17 and 19 under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as allegedly being anticipated by U. S. Patent No. 6,147,994 (hereinafter "DUREE"). The Examiner also rejected claims 3, 6, 9, 12, 14, 16 and 18 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over DUREE in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,275,494 (hereinafter "ENDO").

By way of this amendment, Applicant has amended claims 1-4 and 7-10 to improve form. New claim 20 has been added. No new matter has been added by way of the present amendment. Reconsideration of the outstanding rejection of pending claims 1-19 is respectfully requested in view of the amendments above and the following remarks.

In paragraph 4, the Office Action rejects pending claims 1, 2, 4, 5, 7, 8, 10, 11, 13, 15, 17 and 19 under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as allegedly being anticipated by DUREE. Applicant respectfully traverses.

DUREE discloses a system in which a call/connection manager (CCM) (2570, 2610, 2660) instructs a gateway to modify a virtual circuit identifier (VCI) received in an incoming ATM cell to a VCI selected dynamically by the CCM (column 31, lines 49-64). The CCM selects and assigns the VCI to set up calls between two nodes, in separate networks 2600 and 2650, via a gateway (column 31, lines 49-64; column 34, lines 1-6). As disclosed in column 31, lines 48-53, the CCM is not a switch since it does not have a switching fabric, and does not carry actual user traffic. The CCM receives and processes signaling messages associated

with a call and sends control messages to a gateway for ATM call set-up (column 31, lines 31, lines 48-57).

By contrast, claim 1, as amended, recites, among other features, "receiving, at a first router/switch, packets comprising a plurality of first virtual circuit identifiers associated with gateways in the network," "assigning, at the first router/switch, second virtual circuit identifiers to connected gateways," and "initiating the transmission of a message from the first router/switch to the connected gateways informing the connected gateways of the plurality of first virtual circuit identifiers." Applicant submits that DUREE does not disclose the features of amended claim 1.

A proper rejection under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) requires that a single reference teach every aspect of the claimed invention either expressly or impliedly. Any feature not directly taught must be inherently present. See M.P.E.P. § 2131. Applicant respectfully submits that DUREE does not disclose each and every feature recited in amended claim 1. As discussed above, DUREE merely discloses the receipt of signaling messages related to an ATM call at a CCM, where the CCM does not consist of a router or switch, and issuance of a message from the CCM to instruct a gateway to modify a VCI of an incoming cell to a VCI selected by the CCM. DUREE does not disclose, or even suggest, receiving, at a router/switch, packets that comprise a plurality of first virtual circuit identifiers associated with gateways in the network; assigning, at the router/switch, second virtual circuit identifiers to connected gateways; and initiating the transmission of a message from the first router/switch to the connected gateways informing the connected gateways of the plurality of first virtual circuit identifiers, as recited in amended claim 1.

The Office Action alleges that DUREE discloses the features of claim 1 and cites column 33, lines 62-64, column 34, lines 2-8, column 31, lines 42-44, column 34, lines 15-18 and column 33, lines 53-56 for support (Office Action, page 3). At column 33, lines 62-64, DUREE discloses:

> Nodes 2625, 2630, 2635, 2640, 2675, 2680, 2685, and 2690 are ATM devices. Any device that transmits or receives ATM cells is contemplated.

This section of DUREE, thus, merely discloses that the nodes shown in FIG. 26 consist of ATM devices that transmit or receive ATM cells. This section does not suggest or disclose the above-noted features of amended claim 1.

At column 34, lines 2-8, DUREE discloses:

> In operation for a call from node 2625 to node 2685, node 2625 would recognize that the call did not terminate within network 2600 and would seize a connection to gateway 2655. This connection would be provisioned through cross-connect 2620 and represented by the VPI/VCI in the cell headers. Gateway 2605 is inactive on this call and could even be omitted. It is shown to illustrate the Gateway function could be implemented for calls passing in the other direction.

This section of DUREE, therefore, merely discloses that, when implementing a call between itself and a node 2685 in another network, node 2625 "seizes" a connection to gateway 2655 that serves node 2685. This section does not suggest or disclose any of the above-noted features of amended claim 1. At column 31, lines 42-44, DUREE discloses:

> CCM 2570 processes signaling and exerts control over the gateway 2500 via link 2560. This link could be any means of exchanging control information such as a signaling link, a data link, or a bus arrangement.

This section, thus, merely discloses that CCM 2570 can send control data to gateway 2500. This section does not suggest or disclose the above-noted features of amended claim 1.

At column 34, lines 15-18, DUREE discloses:

CCM 2655 would select an available VCI within that VPI. CCM 2655 would identify both the VPI/VCI from gateway 2605 and the VPI/VCI to node 2685 in a control message to gateway 2655.

This section of DUREE, therefore, merely discloses selection of a VCI within a virtual path identifier (VPI) by CCM 2655, and sending of the selected VCI to a gateway 2655. This section does not suggest or disclose any of the above-noted features of amended claim 1.

At column 33, lines 53-56, DUREE discloses:

Gateway 2605 and 2655 have been described above. They modify the VPI/VCIs in ATM cells as instructed by control messages from the CCMs. CCM 2610 and 2660 are described above. They process signaling and select VPI/VCIs on a call by call basis.

This section of DUREE, thus, merely discloses that gateways 2605 and 2655 modify VCIs contained in received cells according to control messages received from a CCM. This section does not suggest or disclose any of the above-noted features of amended claim 1.

For at least these reasons, Applicant submits DUREE does not anticipate amended claim 1. Withdrawal of the rejection of this claim under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) is, therefore, respectfully requested.

Claim 2 depends from claim 1 and, therefore, patentably distinguishes over DUREE for at least the reasons set forth with respect to claim 1 above.

Independent claim 4 recites receiving "packets flooded from other network devices in a network comprising a plurality of first virtual circuit identifiers associated with gateways in the network." DUREE discloses the generation of an Initial Address Message (IAM) by a first network, and transmission of the IAM to the call/connection manager (CCM) so that the

CCM can use the contents of the IAM to assist in routing ATM calls between nodes in two different networks (column 32, lines 25-34). Furthermore, the ATM cells disclosed in DUREE are routed from a first node in a first network to a second node in a second network based on a call between the two nodes (column 34, lines 1-26). DUREE does not disclose any flooding of the ATM cells that comprise the call. DUREE, therefore, does not disclose, or even suggest, the receipt of packets, flooded from other network devices, where the packets comprise a plurality of first virtual circuit identifiers associated with gateways in a network, as recited in claim 4. Withdrawal of the rejection of claim 4 is, therefore, respectfully requested.

Claim 5 depends from claim 4 and, therefore, patentably distinguishes over DUREE for at least the reasons set forth with respect to claim 4 above.

Independent claim 7 recites features similar to those discussed above with respect to claim 1. Claim 7, therefore, patentably distinguishes over DUREE for similar reasons to the reasons set forth with respect to claim 1.

Claim 8 depends from claim 7 and, therefore, patentably distinguishes over DUREE for at least the reasons set forth with respect to claim 7 above.

Independent claim 10 recites receiving "packets, flooded from other routers in the network, comprising a plurality of first virtual circuit identifiers associated with the plurality of gateways in the network." DUREE discloses the generation of an Initial Address Message (IAM) by a first network, and transmission of the IAM to the call/connection manager (CCM) so that the CCM can use the contents of the IAM to assist in routing ATM calls between nodes in two different networks (column 32, lines 25-34). Furthermore, the ATM cells disclosed in DUREE are routed from a first node in a first network to a second node in a

second network based on a call between the two nodes (column 34, lines 1-26). DUREE does not disclose any flooding of the ATM cells that comprise the call. DUREE, therefore, does not disclose, or even suggest, the receipt of packets, flooded from other routers, where the packets comprise a plurality of first virtual circuit identifiers associated with gateways in a network, as recited in claim 10. Withdrawal of the rejection of claim 10 is, therefore, respectfully requested.

Claim 11 depends from claim 10 and, therefore, patentably distinguishes over DUREE for at least the reasons set forth with respect to claim 10 above.

Independent claim 13 recites, among other features, "receiving a message at the first gateway, the message comprising a plurality of virtual circuit identifiers associated with other gateways in the network." The Office Action (page 4) cites column 33, lines 53-56 as allegedly disclosing the above-noted feature and asserts that DUREE discloses that "the CCM 2610 sends a control message to the gateway 2605 to modify the VPI/VCI of the incoming cells so they contain the VPI/VCI selected by the CCM." At column 33, lines 53-56, DUREE discloses:

> Gateway 2605 and 2655 have been described above. They modify the VPI/VCIs in ATM cells as instructed by control messages from the CCMs. CCM 2610 and 2660 are described above. They process signaling and select VPI/VCIs on a call by call basis. The selections are provided to the gateways.

This section of DUREE, thus, merely discloses that a control message is sent from the CCM, on a call-by-call basis, to a gateway such that the gateway will modify the VCIs of incoming cells that correspond to that call. The section of DUREE cited by the Office Action does not suggest or disclose that the message from the CCM to the gateway, instructing the gateway to modify the VCI, includes multiple VCIs associated with multiple other gateways in the

network. DUREE, therefore, does not disclose "receiving a message at the first gateway, the message comprising a plurality of virtual circuit identifiers associated with other gateways in the network," as recited in claim 13. Withdrawal of the rejection of claim 13 is, thus, respectfully requested.

Independent claims 15, 17 and 19 recite similar features to those discussed above with respect to claim 13. Claims 15, 17 and 19, therefore, patentably distinguish over DUREE for at least the reasons set forth with respect to claim 13.

In paragraph 4, the Office Action rejects pending claims 3, 6, 9, 12, 14, 16 and 18 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over DUREE in view of ENDO. The Office Action (page 5) asserts that ENDO allegedly discloses the updating of a virtual circuit table stored at a node. Applicant submits, however, that the disclosure of ENDO does not remedy the deficiencies in the disclosure of DUREE noted above with respect to claims 1, 4, 7, 10, 13, 15 and 17, from which claims 3, 6, 9, 12, 14, 16 and 18 depend respectively. Claims 3, 6, 9, 12, 14, 16 and 18, therefore, patentably distinguish over DUREE and ENDO for at least the reasons set forth above with respect to claims 1, 4, 7, 10, 13, 15 and 17.

New claim 21 recites "wherein the packets comprising a plurality of first virtual circuit identifiers associated with gateways in the network are flooded from other routers/switches in the network." As discussed above, DUREE discloses the generation of an Initial Address Message (IAM) by a first network, and transmission of the IAM to the call/connection manager (CCM) so that the CCM can use the contents of the IAM to assist in routing ATM calls between nodes in two different networks (column 32, lines 25-34). Furthermore, the ATM cells disclosed in DUREE are routed from a first node in a first network to a second node in a second network based on a call between the two nodes (column

34, lines 1-26). DUREE does not disclose any flooding of the ATM cells that comprise the call. DUREE, therefore, does not disclose, or even suggest, the receipt of packets, at a router/switch, flooded from other network devices, where the packets comprise a plurality of virtual circuit identifiers associated with gateways in a network. Applicant submits that new claim 21, therefore, patentably distinguishes over the cited references.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, Applicant respectfully requests the Examiner's reconsideration of this application, and the timely allowance of the pending claims. To the extent necessary, a petition for an extension of time under 37 CFR § 1.136 is hereby made. Please charge any shortage in fees due in connection with the filing of this paper, including extension of time fees, to Deposit Account No. 50-1070 and please credit any excess fees to such deposit account.

Respectfully submitted,

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